

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

It is the position of the examiner that in general it is not known in the prior art to use a pin-like object to pull a polymeric nanofiber through a hole in a substrate.

The most pertinent prior art (USPGPub 2004/0159609) teaches that it is known to deposit nanofibers on the surface of a filter medium. However, the prior art fails to teach the use of a needle-like object to pull at least one fiber through the filter medium.

Another prior art (US4983068) teaches sewing polymeric fibers onto a bag. However, the fibers lack nanoscale dimensions and in this case it would not be obvious as to how to employ nanoscale fibers in the place of the fibers of the prior art.

Another prior art (USPGPub 2002/0100725) teaches that it is known to deposit a laundry list of materials by electrospinning. However, the prior art is silent as to the use of objects to pull deposited fibers through any substrate.

Another prior art (USPGPub 2003/0195611) teaches that it is known to deposit fibers by electrospinning onto substrates that contain holes. However, the prior art fails to teach wherein the fibers are pulled through the substrate with a pin-like object.

Another prior art (USPGPub 2004/0073205) teaches that it is known to heat treat electrospun fibers, but is otherwise generally unrelated.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDREW BOWMAN whose telephone number is (571)270-5342. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday (7:30 to 5:00)EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dah-Wei Yuan can be reached on 571-272-1295. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Andrew J Bowman
Examiner
Art Unit 1717

/Dah-Wei D. Yuan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1717